Linking Chandigarh with Ludhiana-Delhi Railway Track

3762. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to link Chandigarh with Ludhiana-Delhi railway track in the near future;

(b) whether Punjab Government has requested the Government to take up this project on priority basis; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) A survey for the proposed link line between Rajpura and Chandigarh has been taken up. Further action will depend on results of the survey and availability of resources in the coming years.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Chief Minister of Punjab has written letters dated 26th March, 1992 and 10th June, 1992 in this regard.

Running of Electric Train on its own

3763. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an electric train started on its own and travelled for nearly 12 Kms. on the Tirupati-Renigunta track on 15th February, 1993;

(b) whether the South Central Railway enquired into the causes of this incident; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure safety measures in South Central Railway ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) :(a) On 16-2-93, a yard shunting electric loco with an unoccupied coach and a goods wagon rolled down from Tirupati station, but a shunter managed to get on it at Tirupati station itself and the train was stopped at North Cabin of Renigunta station.

(b) An enquiry by 3 Senior Administrative Grade Officers has been ordered.

(c) Strict instructions have been issued that :

(i) No loco should be left unmanned unless absolutely unavoidable.

(ii) Regular of the locomotive should be in the 'OFF' position, reversing gear in mid-gear and hand brakes should be applied when the loco is required to be stabled.

Running of Trains by Coal, Electricity and Diesel in the country

3754. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that trains in the country are being run with coal, diesel and electricity;

(b) if so, whether Government have estimated the per kilometre expenditure incurred on these trains which are run by coal, electricity and diesel;

(c) if so, the expenditure incurred, separately, and whether Government have fixed any target in the Eighth Five Year Plan to promote the medium which entails least expenditure; and

(d) the details of the aforesaid target ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The comparative cost of operation per 1000 Gross Tonne Kilometres in respect of steam, diesel and electric tractions is given as under :—

(Figures in Rupees)
(1990-91)

Traction	Broad Gauge		Metre Gauge	
	Passenger	Goods	Passenger	Goods
Steam	Does not operate under circumstances similar to Diesel and Electric Locomotives.			
Diesel	50.84	39.16	58.36	51.16
Electric	48.40	27.34	80.92	87.76

Target for electrification during VIII Five Year Plan has been fixed at 8000 Route Kilometres.